

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9655

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 8844

FOLNG SENT TO NEW DELHI INFO KATHMANDU FROM CALCUTTA
DTD JUL 1.

QUOTE: CALCUTTA 1478

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, PFOR IN SK

SUBJECT: WELFARE/WHEREABOUTS (ROBERT CHARLES MATTHEWS);
PLANS TO TELL THE STORY OF INDIA'S TAKEOVER OF SIKKIM."

REF: A. STATE 087420; B. CALCUTTA 876; C. CALCUTTA 913

1. MATTHEWS VISITED CONSULATE GENERAL JUNE 30 TO ADVISE THAT HE
WAS DEPARTING NEW DELHI JULY 2 FOR EDINBURG, SCOTLAND. HE
ASKED THAT HIS FATHER BE ADVISED THAT BOTH HE AND HIS WIFE (A
UK NATIONAL) ARE IN GOOD HEALTH.

2. MATTHEWS AND HIS WIFE HAVE BEEN TEACHING ENGLISH IN GANGKOK
SINCE THE FALL OF 1974. THEY ARE REPORTEDLY VERY CLOSE TO THE
CHOYGAL AND PREVIOUS TO THE TAKEOVER SAW HIM ON DAILY BASIS.

3. MATTHEWS TOLD CONSULAR OFFICER THAT HE AND HIS WIFE ARE
LEAVING FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES TO TELL THE
STORY OF INDIA'S TAKEOVER OF SIKKIM. THEY DO NOT PLAN TO RETURN
TO SIKKIM OR TO INDIA. BECAUSE OF THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE CHOYGAL
THEY SAID THEY WERE AFRAID THAT WHEN THEY LEFT NEW DELHI, JULY 2,
THE GOI AUTHORITIES WOULD QTE HASSLE UNQTE THEM. THEY INDICATED
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THAT THEY WERE PLANNING TO TAKE OUT WITH THEM THE 2,000RUPEES

EARNED IN SIKKIM AS TEACHERS, WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA WILL NOT ALLOW THEM TO TRANSFER INTO HARD CURRENCY. CONSULAR OFFICER STRONGLY ADVISED AGAINST THIS AND MATTHEWS SEEMS TO HAVE RECONSIDERED.

4. MATTHEWS VOLUNTEERED THAT THE CHOYGAL WAS IN GOOD HEALTH AND IS KEEPING HIS SPIRITS UP. MATTHEWS SAID THE CHOYGAL(S) MOVEMENTS ARE RESTRICTED QTE ALMOST TO HOUSE ARREST UNQTE BY THE INDIAN CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE WHO ARE CAMPED IN AND AROUND THE PALCACE GROUNDS.

5. MATTHEWS SAID THAT PRICES OF COMMODITIES HAVE RISEN AND CERTAIN FOODS ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY IN SIKKIM. THERE ALSO APPEARS TO BE INFLUX OF INDIAN NATIONALS INTO GANGTOK WHO HE SAID ARE RAPIDLY INSERTING THEMSELVES INTO ALL GOVERNMENT BUSINESS AFFAIRS. THE SIKKIMESE, MATTHEWS SAID, HAVE GIVEN UP HOPE THAT SIKKIM WILL EVER AGAIN BE THEIRS.

6. COMMENT: MATTHEWS AND HIS WIFE ARE ENGAGING PERSONALITIES AND WILL ATTEMPT TO EXPLAIN THE CHOYGAL'S STORY IN THE MOST SYMPATHETIC WAY AND IN A MANNER CALCULATED TO EMBARRASS THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
KORN UNQUOTE.
SAXBE

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